

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

NEAE-00 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-10 FEAE-00 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 /106 W

----- 113258

P R 201340Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1989

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS RP

SUBJECT: MNLF LEADER MISUARI AND LIBYANS BLAME TUHAMI
AND PHILIPPINE GOVT FOR FAILURE OF JIDDA TALKS

1. SUMMARY: MNLF LEADER NUR MISUARI IN TRIPOLI PRESS
CONFERENCE FEB 19 BLAMES MARCOS FOR FAILURE OF JIDDA TALKS.
MNLF HAD REFUSED OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO GOVT POSTSAGMO ND
WOULD ATTEND NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ONLY IF ITS DEMANDS WERE
MET IN PRINCIPLE. THESE INCLUDE RIGHT TO HAVE AN ARMY AND
SEPARATE GOVT "WITHIN CONTEXT" OF PHILIPPINES. INDONESIA
HAD AGREED TO LET MNLF SET UP HEADQUARTERS IN JAKARTA,
BUT "POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES" PREVENTED IT FROM GIVING AID.
ARAB STATES SHOULD IMPOSE OIL EMBARGO ON PHILIPPINES.
MNLF WOULD FOLLOW FIGHT-TALK STRATEGY IN FUTURE. LIBYANS
ALSO CHIME IN WITH PRESS STATEMENT BLAMING PHILIPPINE
"TRICKERY" AND TUHAMI FOR FAILURE OF JIDDA TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. NUR MISUARI AND OTHER MNLF LEADERS ARE NOW IN TRIPOLI,
AND GAVE "PRESS CONFERENCE" EVENING OF FEB 19 AT HEADQUARTERS
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OF SOCIETY FOR ISLAMIC PROPAGATION. THIS APPARENTLY

INVOLVED PRESENTATION OF MISUARI BY SHEIKH WHO IS HEAD OF SOCIETY TO TWO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVES, WHO ASKED A FEW QUESTIONS. FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM THEIR ARABIC LANGUAGE ACCOUNTS PUBLISHED FEB 20 IN LIBYAN PRESS. ACCOUNTS MAY NOT BE ACCURATE IN ALL DETAILS BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THEY REPRESENT WHAT WAS SAID WITH FAIR ACCURACY.

3. AFTER INTRODUCTION BY SHEIKH, WHO ASSURED HIM OF LIBYAN SUPPORT, MISUARI GAVE OVERVIEW OF SITUATION. HE ACCUSED PHILIPPINE GOVT OF USING "GERM WARFARE, NAPALM, PHOSPHATE BOMBS, OF RAPING MUSLIM WOMEN, AND DRIVING MUSLIM POPULATION OUT OF SOUTH. HE DERIDED MARCOS CLAIMS THAT HE HAD ORDERED A CEASEFIRE, AND SAID FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING. "WE ARE READY FOR A LONG STRUGGLE. WE FOUGHT SPAIN FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS WITHOUT GIVING UP, AND WE ARE READY TO FIGHT FOUR HUNDRED YEARS MORE." MUSLIM LANDS WERE POTENTIALLY RICHEST IN PHILIPPINES, BUT FIVE MILLION (SIC) MUSLIMS WERE POOREST FILIPINOS.

4. OF JIDDA TALKS, MISUARI SAID THAT MNLF HAD BOWED TO REQUEST OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND COME TO TALKS, "TEMPORARILY" CHANGING ITS GOALS FROM COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE TO "SELF INDEPENDENCE (SIC) WITHIN CONTEXT OF THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC FOR ALL MUSLIM REGIONS". "IF THIS IS A CONCESSION IT IS CONCESSION TO WISHES OF OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS AND NOT CONCESSION TO THE ENEMY. MARCOS CLAIMS WE WANT SECESSION IN ORDER TO MISLEAD THE WORLD; HE CLAIMS SUCH DEMAND WOULD REQUIRE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. WE SAY THERE IS NO CONSTITUTION IN THE PHILIPPINES. COUNTRY IS GOVERNED UNDER MILITARY LAW PROMULGATED BY MARCOS." AT JIDDA, MISUARI SAID TUHAMI HAD PROPOSED PLAN WHEREBY HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FRONT WOULD BE GIVEN GOVT POSTS. MNLF HAD REFUSED THIS "TEMPTATION".

5. ASKED WHETHER MNLF WOULD ATTEND NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IN APRIL, MISUARI SAID HE WOULD DO SO "ONLY IF GOVT AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO OUR DEMANDS. IF THEY DO NOT AGREE, WE WILL NOT ATTEND. WE DO NOT WANT TO TURN DOWN INITIATIVE OF THE KUALA LUMPUR CONFERENCE, AND WE WANT TO REVEAL MARCOS' UNCLASSIFIED

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BAD FAITH COMPLETELY". MISUARI LISTED HIS DEMANDS AS:

"....FIRST, THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVT AGREE TO RECOGNIZE INTERNAL SOVEREIGNTY OF SOUTHERN MUSLIM PEOPLE ON ITS TERRITORY.SECOND, THAT PHILIPPINE GOVT AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNALLY INDEPENDENT GOVT WITHIN CONTEXT OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.THIRD, THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL DEFENSE BE

UNDER SUPERVISION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MUSLIMS' GOVT
WHILE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTERNAL DEFENSE RESTS WITH
PHILIPPINE GOVT, THIS ON CONDITION MNLF BE THE NUCLEUS
FOR THE GOVT, AND THAT ITS ARMY BE NUCLEUS FOR THE INTERNAL
DEFENSE FORCES."

6. ASKED WHICH COUNTRIES IN REGION HELPED MNLF, MISUARI
NAMED ONLY INDONESIA, ALTHOUGH THE "PEOPLES ARE WITH US".
AS FOR INDONESIA, IT "IS PREPARED TO HAVE ITS CAPITAL BE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE RESISTANCE, BUT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES
PREVENT IT FROM GIVING US ANY TANGIBLE AID.
ASKED WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES WERE PROVIDING AID AND ARMS,
MISUARI SAID THAT WAS SECRET. NONE WERE GREAT POWERS,
ONLY MUSLIM STATES. "MUSLIM CHIEFS OF STATE WHO DO NOT
GIVE US AID WILL BE FORCED TO DO SO SOME DAY. ARAB
COUNTRIES GIVE OIL TO PHILIPPINES. IF OIL WERE CUT OFF,
MARCOS WOULD SOON DISCOVER WE HAVE BEHIND US REAL ISLAMIC
AND ARAB SUPPORT. HE KNOWS THAT IF THIS HAPPENS,
HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO GIVE US OUR RIGHTS IMMEDIATELY."

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7. TO LEADING QUESTION WHETHER THERE WERE NOT AMERICAN BASES IN PHILIPPINES, MISUARI REFUSED TO RISE TO THE BAIT, ANDHNAKE DESIRED ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENT. U.S. DID HAVE AN AIR BASE IN PHILIPPINES, HE SAID, BUT HE RESERVED HIS VENOM FOR MARCOS "ZIONIST ADVISOR." AFTER 1967 ARAB

DEFEAT, THESE ZIONIST ADVISORS HAD TOLD MARCOS THAT ARABS WOULD ALWAYS BE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS TO HELP PHILIPPINE MUSLIMS. BUT 1973 WAR HAD CHANGED ALL THAT, AND UPSET ZIONIST PLANS.

8. ASKED WHAT MNLF CURRENT STRATEGY WAS, MISUARI SAID "WE MUST NOW FOLLOW TWO LINES AT SAME TIME: THE ROAD TO A MILITARY SOLUTION, AND ROAD TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION. JIDDA TALKS SHOWED US THE GOVT WILL ACCEDE ONLY TO A MILITARY SOLUTION, AND WE ARE READY FOR IT". STRUGGLE WOULD CONTINUE, ARMY WOULD BE STRENGTHENED, AND POLITICAL ACTION WOULD BE BROADENED TO GET MORE SUPPORT AND HELP INTERNATIONALLY.
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9. MISUARI EXPRESSED HIS DEEP AFFECTION AND APPRECIATION TO COLONEL QADHAFI, AND HIS THANKS FOR LIBYAN SUPPORT.

10. BEFORE SO-CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE, LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, ARNA, HAD RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

ARNA HAS LEARNED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN JIDDA AT END OF JAN BETWEEN DELEGATION OF MNLF AND DELEGATION

OF MARCOS GOVT REACHED IMPASSE. NOTHING RESULTED FROM THEM AS RESULT OF TRICKERY OF PHILIPPINE GOVT DELEGATION AND ITS LACK OF POWERS TO SIGN ANYTHING, WHILE OBVIOUSLY MUSLIM REVOLUTIONARIES PRESENTED THEIR CLEAR DEMANDS FOR SELF-INDEPENDENCE (SIC) AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION. ARNA HAS ALSO LEARNED SPLIT CLEARLY APPEARED BETWEEN MNLF DELEGATION AND BOTH PHILIPPINE GOVT DELEGATION AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, DR. HASSAN UKHAMIWQ CLUHAMI ASKED NUR MISUARI, CHIEF OF MNLF, TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY AND ABANDON THE WAR, ON PRETEXT THAT IT WAS USELESS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE LEADER OF MNLF, AS WELL AS HIS COMRADES, GO TO PHILIPPINES TO VISIT MARCOS. DR. TUHAMI SUGGESTED TO MNLF DELEGATION THAT ALL WEAPONS OF THE MUSLIM REVOLUTIONARIES BE PUT IN WAREHOUSES UNDER GOVT SUPERVISION. THE MNLF REFUSED ALL THESE SUGGESTIONS. ARNA HYU LEARNED THAT NUR MISUARI, CHIEF OF MNLF, ANNOUNCED THAT HIS IS READY TO MEET MARCOS, BUT IN TERRITORIES CONTROLLED BY MUSLIMS.

11. COMMENT: MISUARI, LIKE ERITREAN GUERRILLAS AND OTHERS, WILL LEARN TRIPOLI IS NO PLACE FOR A MEDIA EVENT. HE PRESS CONFERENCE IS RELEGATED TO BACK PAGES, AND ONE PAPER CALLS HIM "NURI BISUARI". IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH BOTH HE AND HIS LIBYAN BACKERS ARE THROUGH WITH TUHAMI MEDIATION; AT LEAST THESE RECRIMINATIONS WILL NOT IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE FOR RECONVENING OF PEACE TALKS.
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